



(Continued.)

No sooner was he gone than the woman who had denied his hand flew wildly to the door and stopped before her hand touched the knob.

"No, no, Frances!" cried Diana. "The man on the veranda paused."

"But I cannot let him carry away that. I might never see him again."

"Do not call him back. He must have something to fight for, to win back. He knows. He has the keenest eye and the quickest mind of any man I know."

Frances turned and ran swiftly back to her room, closing the door violently. Diana looked sadly at the bowed man in the chair. The knowledge that she was the daughter of the notorious Smead had crushed him.

"Mr. Cranford, are you ill?"

"I don't know. I'm afraid to move. I shall fall down."

Diana touched the bell. "Some cold chicken and a glass of milk. Have you any port wine in the house?"

"Yes, Miss Wynne."

"Martha, bring me the wine first. That'll set me up till I can get back to the hotel. Will you have them hitch up the team? I feel pretty weak."

He sipped the wine, and shortly the glow of it permeated his veins. He set the glass under the chair and smiled. Diana was not expecting that smile, for it was warm and friendly.

"You were to call me Cran," he said. "Cran, I am sorry."

"Sorry for what? Who was that young woman?"

"My brother's wife."

"You told me you were married."

"No, Cran; I told you that I could not marry any man—any man I might wish to marry. Can I—Michael Smead's daughter—a notorious gambler, a man without feeling or kindness or truth or honor—my father?"

He got up and steadied himself by holding on to the chair. "I must look pretty well banged up. Will you marry me, Diana?"

"No!—quietly. Smead's daughter cannot marry a man of your station. It only he knew how desperately she was fighting! She wanted him—wanted his head on her breast, close to her heart—wanted to run her fingers through his tousled hair—wanted him! Come; supposing I took you at your word and married you. Could you introduce me to your friends? I am proud."

"In heaven's name, why not?" His hand slipped from the chair and he crossed the room unsteadily. "Look at me—in the eyes, Diana, and tell me you will not marry me."

"I will not marry you, Cran." Her eyes looked up into his, bravely and unwaveringly. "It is rather cruel of you. I'm helpless; I cannot get up and leave you."

"Do you want to leave me?"

"Yes."

"Repeat after me," he said, "I do not love you."

She was silent.

"What is your father to me—friends? Out of the world somewhere you have come to me, and I shall not let you go. Will you wreck your life and mine over such a silly phantom?"

"Please go," she begged.

"I'd be a fine lover, wouldn't I? I shall stay here till the sun rises unless you tell me one way or the other."

"Lover! The kind a woman dreams of—wait for."

A smile quivered on her lips, and he saw it. He seized her hand, turned it palm upward and pressed it against his face. After a moment he looked up.

"You can't say it?"

"No."

"You don't want me to go?"

"No."

"Will you marry me?"

"I ought not to, but I will—whenever you wish." And to make the surrender complete she drew his head tightly to her heart and laid her cheek upon it.

Smead turned the note over and over in his hand. His eyes went from one corner of his mouth to the other. Occasionally a small wave slapped mischievously against the gunwale and splashed his knees.

His teeth sank into the tobacco. The young fool would be back quickly enough when his money gave out. Still he ought not to have been so rough with him that day in Kingston. But the cool banter of the boy had maddened him.

Suddenly his teeth met with a click, and the cigar bounded and rolled down his chest to the bottom of the boat.

Played! He knew now. The boy had them. Possession had given him this courage. A quarter of a million, and South America, where no one would ask questions!

Played! Diana should tell him where the boy had gone, and, if it was the last thing he ever did, he would find him. Played all along; actually made sport of!

At the farm he called for Miss Smead. There was nobody there by that name. "Perhaps it is Miss Wynne you wish to see?"

"I am her father. I wish to see her."

Cranford, smiling old aristocrat, thought at this moment his face was grave enough, the lawyer and a young woman he did not know, were standing behind Diana's chair.

Smead looked keenly at his daughter's face. She was as beautiful as ever her mother had been. The sight of her stirred nothing in his heart, no tender quickening, no regret.

"I wish to see you alone," he said directly.

"Whatever you may have to say to me must be said in the presence of my friends," she smiled.

Straight from the shoulder. He nodded with appreciation. "I am your father."

Bits of Byplay

By Luke McLuke

Copyright, 1915, the Cincinnati Enquirer

Paw Knows Everything.
Willie—Paw, can a woman keep a secret?
Paw—She can keep it going, my son. Maw—Willie, you go to bed.

Advice.
This good advice old Luke commends, So listen to it, sonny:
If you would always keep your friends, Just let them keep their money.

The Wise Fool.
"A listener never hears any good of himself," observed the sage.
"Not unless he talks into a phonograph," corrected the fool.

Stung, by Heck!
"The government ought to get after them smart city chaps," said Si Green as he tore up the letter he had just received.

What's the matter now? asked the postmaster.
"I saw an advertisement that said that for \$2 they would tell you how to make butter from grass," replied Si Green. "So I sent the \$2 and I got back a card that says, 'After you get the grass ready feed it to a cow and then churn the milk.'"

Aw, Gwan!
She can't be very cold, I know. And yet I see her shiver.
The poor girl has just found a beau. And now she's all a-quiver.

The Thrifty Widow.
Mr. Editor—I desire to thank the friends and neighbors most heartily in this manner for their co-operation during the illness and death of my late husband, who escaped from me by the hand of death last Saturday. To my friends and all who contributed toward making the last minutes comfortable and the funeral a success I desire to remember most kindly, hoping that these few lines will find them enjoying the same blessing. I have also a good milk cow and a roan gelding horse eight years old, which I will sell cheap. God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform. He plants his footsteps on the sea and rides upon the storm. Also black and white short cheap.—A Pennsylvania Exchange.

Names Is Names.
Learned Hand is a judge of the New York district court.

A Sure Cure.
There once was a fellow named Gazum, Who claimed all his friends by a spasm, But they gave him a name that was true, Luke McLuke's daily screw.

Thank For the Warning!
KILL THAT FLY NOW.
Hit him—in his young and sturdy manhood before he becomes a grand-mother thirty-six hours hence.—Rome (N.Y.) Roman.

Huh!
He surely is a laxy pup.
His actions make me frown;
He waits for something to turn up, And always gets turned down.

The Million Dollar Mystery.
Dear Luke I go to call on a nice girl some times I have a friend with me as there is two girls and their mother is allway in the way she seems younger than the girls this is a nice family. Please give your ideas in Sunday paper as we have a big time reading your ideas.—Regular Reader.

Things to Worry About.
The cannibals of New Guinea eat human flesh because they like it.

Our Daily Special.
The wages of sin are publicity.

Luke McLuke Says:
The man who isn't known when he gets out of his own house always puts up the loudest holler when a newspaper spells his name wrong.

What has become of the old fashioned grandpa who carried her specs on his head and used to say, "Dear me, sus?"

Most of the men folks have a little respect for the aurora borealis. But a woman can wear a pink hat, a yellow coat, a red waist and a green skirt and feel perfectly serene.

The best way to keep a secret is to forget it.

Every man admits that he is foolish at times, but he is always glad that he isn't as foolish as other men.

Some men get hitched and are deeply surprised to discover that they have married chaperones.

Never despise the little things. The flea can bite harder than the elephant. The man who is always yelping that every man has his price can usually be bought in for 30 cents.

Many a man who is a fire eating bear cat when he is downtown is a meek little tumblington when he gets home.

The man who never speaks ill of women or religion may not have a boiled shirt and a pair of kid gloves, but he is a gentleman just the same.

Before he gets her he wonders why nature neglected to give her wings and a halo. After he gets her he discovers why.

The oft fashioned man who was known as an old crank now has a son who has a self starting grouch.

When two women happen to hate the same people they are always bosom friends.

Italy's Parliament reconvened.
The Westinghouse Machine Co. of Pittsburgh, receives an order from a foreign government for the equipment of four torpedo boat destroyers with steam turbines.

Capt. R. F. Judson, former postmaster of Saratoga, N. Y., and well known in northern New York, died at Saratoga. He was 88 years of age.

XMAS ROPING AND WREATHS OF LAUREL JOHN RECK & SON.

Guaranty Trust Co. of New York declared the regular quarterly dividend of 6 per cent and an extra dividend of 2 per cent.

Four locomotives for freight service were ordered from the American Locomotive Co. by the Boston & Albany Railroad.

President Wilson and Mrs. Galt will receive as a wedding gift a box of world-champion apples from the town of Brewster, Wash.

XMAS ROPING AND WREATHS OF LAUREL JOHN RECK & SON.

THE BRIDGEPORT TRUST COMPANY

Final Payments on Christmas Club Due December 7th

The final payment on Christmas club memberships must be made, not later than Dec. 7th, in order to qualify for interest.

All members who have made payment as prescribed, with interest added, at the rate of 2 per cent per annum.

Those who have not completed their payments, will receive checks for the amount paid in during the year.

CHECKS WILL BE MAILED ON OR ABOUT DEC. 15th.

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Over 10,000 Testimonials Like These: Mr. E. M. Ehlers, Secty. Grand Lodge of Mason of New York City writes that, "Although a sufferer from rheumatism for many years, two doses stopped all pain and one bottle cured me."

Mr. A. Goldman, Victoria, Texas, says: "I am very well pleased with your medicine; am recommending it very highly. It has done more for me than anything I have ever tried."

Marshall F. W. Geraty, of 10 Manhattan St., New York, says: "I have suffered with rheumatism for many years, have tried almost every known remedy, but got no relief or cure until I took yours. In forty-eight hours, I was entirely cured and free from all pain. I send you an uncollected five dollar Rheumatism Remedy on sale at most drug stores at \$1.00 per bottle. One bottle generally effects a complete cure. Call or send for free sample bottle and booklet at once. There is no greater service you can perform for humanity than to tell any rheumatic sufferer about this wonderful preparation. Address: Hill Medicine Co., 117 East 24th St., New York, N. Y."

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DISTRICT OF BRIDGEPORT, ss., PROBATE COURT.

Sept. 13, 1915.
Estate of John Kelly, late of the town of Bridgeport in said district deceased.

The Court of Probate for the District of Bridgeport, hath limited and allowed six months from the date hereof for Creditors of said Estate to exhibit their claims for settlement. Those who neglect to present their accounts, properly attested, within said time, will be debarred a recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to

ELLEN REILLY, Administratrix.
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